

**CHEVY CHASE VILLAGE
BOARD OF MANAGERS
JUNE 10, 2013 MEETING**

STAFF REPORT

TO: BOARD OF MANAGERS
FROM: SHANA R. DAVIS-COOK, VILLAGE MANAGER 
DATE: 6/6/2013
SUBJECT: BOARD ACTION ON THE VILLAGE'S DUTCH ELM DISEASE
INOCULATION PROGRAM

During the Board's review of the Tree Maintenance Program expenses during the February Budget Work Session, the Board requested additional information regarding the Village's Dutch Elm Disease (DED) Inoculation Program so the Board could determine whether it was cost-effective to continue the program. At the Board's regular meeting on March 18, 2013, the Board reviewed the attached reports submitted by the Village Tree Committee and Village Arborist Dr. Tolbert Feather, however, no Board action was taken.

This matter is being re-presented to the Board in advance of your pending consideration of a contract award for tree maintenance services, which would begin July 1, 2013. Staff seeks the Board's direction on the matter of continuing DED inoculations so instruction can be provided to the selected contractor at the start of the contract term.

Board Action Requested

The Board is asked to consider the following options:

1. Continue the current Dutch Elm Disease Inoculation Program at an approximate annual cost of \$15,000.
2. Discontinue Dutch Elm Disease inoculations effective immediately.
3. Per the Tree Committee's request, continue Dutch Elm Disease inoculations through FY2014 while the committee and Dr. Feather assess the condition of existing Elm trees located in Village parks and greenspaces and along public rights-of-way and while they research the effectiveness of the inoculations. The Tree Committee/Arborist's findings would be presented to the Board for action prior to the FY2015 budget cycle.

Attachments

Minutes from the Village Tree Committee's March 11, 2013 Meeting
Report from Village Arborist Dr. Tolbert Feather, dated March 8, 2013

DRAFT MINUTES, TREE COMMITTEE MARCH 11, 2013 MEETING

1. Minutes for the Committee's Jan. 24 meeting were approved.
2. Connecticut Ave. plantings. Mr. Younes circulated diagrams showing locations for 32 planting sites that State Highway representatives have indicated they will approve (7 in the planting strip south of Irving St. and 25 inboard of the sidewalk in that block and further north) and of the 73 sites in the planting strip they have indicated cannot be approved because within 6' of the curb. He further indicated that he plans further discussion with district and state level SHA representatives regarding these latter 73 sites and that he believed they might be approved if the Village were to take full responsibility for the trees' ongoing maintenance, including pruning to avoid branches intruding into the roadway and removal of trees diseased and deemed hazardous.

The committee strongly endorsed efforts to get state approval for plantings in the planting strip, including Village's assuming full maintenance responsibility. It noted that the national AASHTO standard includes installing features in the ROW (including plantings, signs) as close as 3' from the curb and also that the presence of trees has been found by a University of Michigan study to have a calming effect on traffic. While recognizing that vehicles going off the highway may indeed be damaged by collision with roadside trees, the trees' presence also serve to protect pedestrians from injury. In short, the Committee sees roadside trees as having safety as well as aesthetic and environmental values and believes the Maryland DOT 6' setback policy to be too restrictive.

The committee also endorsed proceeding as soon as possible to plant 8-10 trees in sites that can be approved by the state, believing that doing so will help demonstrate the high priority which the Village gives to restoring this currently blighted streetscape.

3. Treatments for Dutch Elm Disease. The Committee reviewed the attached listing of Village elms and Dr. Feather's 3/8 letter noting that the National Park Service, Somerset and the Town of Chevy Chase have suspended arborescent injections into elms in their jurisdiction and his personal "inclination to recommend" careful monitoring in lieu of injections for Village trees.

The committee supports Dr. Feather's expertise and inclination but also believes that some of the Village's elms to be of a size and beauty that merit continued injections in view of the substantial costs - financial, aesthetic and environmental - should they become diseased and have to be taken down. It therefore requests that the present budget line for Dutch Elm Disease control be maintained until the committee, along with Dr. Feather, can assess individual trees and also further check the literature on the effectiveness of arborescent treatments. Finally, it notes that it may be prudent to remove those small volunteer elms which have are growing in Village parks to avoid their becoming vectors for the disease.

4. Removal of ROW tree at 136 Grafton St. The Committee supports removal of the black locust conditional upon the owner's planting a suitable canopy tree (hardwood species 2 1/2" caliper that will grow to 45' or more) elsewhere on the property, preferably in the front yard. QUESTION: Do we want to be more specific to recommend front lawn planting?

5. Proposed take down and reforestation, 7 Newlands: The committee endorsed the takedown subject to reforestation with two canopy trees as stipulated in the proposed Tree Ordinance Board Consent Agreement.

6. Proposed take down and reforestation, 5910 Cedar Parkway. Mrs. Campenella informed the committee of her concern that winds off the Chevy Chase golf course are at a level that any large tree planted in her rear yard could become a threat to her home. She also noted that the tree she wishes to remove is a holly of approximately 16" diameter and 20' in height and asked whether replanting one or more similar trees might satisfy the Tree Ordinance and Village board policy. There was some discussion of locating a canopy tree in the front yard as another path to meeting these requirements. Mrs. Campenella indicated that time was not of the essence and that she would discuss the matter further with the Tree Ordinance Board to see if some resolution short of an appeal to the Village Board might be reached.

7. Final spring planting list. The proposed planting at 4014 Oliver is to be removed from the list and that at 9 W. Irving will be deferred with the potential location, at such time as planting may be funded, shifted to the eastern border of the property.

8. List of ROW sites appropriate for future planting. The Committee accepted this list of 86 sites as a good updated baseline for future planning and will undertake over the next several months to verify and if appropriate suggest additions/deletions to this list.

9. Next meeting will be scheduled sometime this spring and focus on tree species appropriate for planting under power lines.

Feather & Assoc.

Tolbert V. Feather, Ph.D.
*Advisors for: Landscape Development
Landscape Management, Plant Pest Management*

Chevy Chase Village
5906 Connecticut Avenue
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

March 8, 2013

Dutch Elm Disease Preventative Fungicide Treatments

The Village is currently managing 43 American Elm Trees and 1 English Elm on public right of ways. The American and English Elm are the only elms, in the Village, susceptible to Dutch Elm Disease. These Village elm trees are on a 2-year program of preventative fungicide treatments for Dutch Elm Disease.

No treatments are done on American elm trees in the other 2 municipalities I work for, The Town of Chevy Chase and the Town of Somerset.

I have contacted the Arborist for National Capitol Park Service and discussed current efforts in preventing Dutch Elm Disease. Currently, no preventative treatments are done on the Mall for Dutch Elm Disease. The Park Service monitors elm trees on the Mall for signs or symptoms of Dutch Elm Disease and if possible removes affected branches and then treats with fungicide. The Arborist was unsure if the effective part of the treatment was the removal of the infected branch or the treatment with the fungicide.

The Village recently lost a large elm tree on W. Kirke St. that was under treatment so the preventative treatments are less than 100% effective.

I am inclined to recommend that the Village discontinue the preventative treatments on elm trees. The treatments are expensive, may not be 100% effective and over time does cause injury to the trunk at the point of injection. We can monitor the trees for signs and symptoms of the disease and adjust our management techniques as necessary.

Elm Trees in the Village

HOUSE_NO	STREET	COMM_NAME	DIAMETER_	HEIGHT_
0	NEWLANDS PARK	AMERICAN ELM	25	40.00
0	LAUREL PARKWAY PK	AMERICAN ELM	14	30.00
0	WEST BUFFER	AMERICAN ELM	17	40.00
0	WEST BUFFER	AMERICAN ELM	9	30.00
0	WEST BUFFER	AMERICAN ELM	13	50.00
0	BETTY ENGLISH PARK	AMERICAN ELM	24	40.00
0	LAUREL PARKWAY PK	AMERICAN ELM	4	30.00
0	LAUREL PARKWAY PK	AMERICAN ELM	2	20.00
0	LAUREL PARKWAY PK	AMERICAN ELM	8	40.00
1	QUINCY STREET	AMERICAN ELM	16	40.00
2	OXFORD STREET	AMERICAN ELM	42	50.00
2	OXFORD STREET	AMERICAN ELM	30	40.00
6	E KIRKE STREET	AMERICAN ELM	39	50.00
6	E KIRKE STREET	AMERICAN ELM	29	50.00
6	E KIRKE STREET	AMERICAN ELM	28	50.00
8	W MELROSE STREET	AMERICAN ELM	47	60.00
9	W KIRKE STREET	AMERICAN ELM	19	50.00
10	E KIRKE STREET	AMERICAN ELM	33	50.00
11	GRAFTON STREET	AMERICAN ELM	27	60.00
11	GRAFTON STREET	AMERICAN ELM	21	40.00
11	W KIRKE STREET	AMERICAN ELM	32	50.00
12	W IRVING STREET	ENGLISH ELM	44	60.00
20	MAGNOLIA PARKWAY	AMERICAN ELM	5	30.00
23	GRAFTON STREET	AMERICAN ELM	44	50.00
25	GRAFTON STREET	AMERICAN ELM	45	50.00
39	W LENOX STREET	AMERICAN ELM	13	50.00
39	W LENOX STREET	AMERICAN ELM	22	50.00
104	NEWLANDS STREET	AMERICAN ELM	14	30.00
135	GRAFTON STREET	AMERICAN ELM	27	40.00
138	GRAFTON STREET	AMERICAN ELM	33	40.00
146	GRAFTON STREET	AMERICAN ELM	32	40.00
4012	OLIVER STREET	AMERICAN ELM	47	60.00
4025	OLIVER STREET	AMERICAN ELM	37	60.00
5514	KIRKSIDE DRIVE	AMERICAN ELM	36	60.00
5514	GROVE STREET	AMERICAN ELM	50	60.00
5600	KIRKSIDE DRIVE	AMERICAN ELM	38	60.00
5602	MONTGOMERY STREET	AMERICAN ELM	34	60.00
5607	PARK STREET	AMERICAN ELM	34	50.00
5610	KIRKSIDE DRIVE	AMERICAN ELM	30	50.00
5611	KIRKSIDE DRIVE	AMERICAN ELM	29	60.00
5615	KIRKSIDE DRIVE	AMERICAN ELM	18	40.00
5700	KIRKSIDE DRIVE	AMERICAN ELM	26	50.00
5702	KIRKSIDE DRIVE	AMERICAN ELM	37	60.00
6315	BROAD BRANCH ROAD	AMERICAN ELM	8	10.00